

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: WATERGATE NEWFOUNDLAND STYLE - UPROAR IN
LEGISLATURE

1. SUMMARY: OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY HAS ACCUSED PREMIER MOORES AND HIS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FARRELL OF MISUSE OF OFFICE AND CORRUPTION. LIBERAL ATTACK, WHICH BEGAN ON APRIL 25, CULMINATED IN 18-HOUR DONNYBROOK IN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NIGHT OF MAY 10/11 AND RESULTED IN TEMPORARY EXPULSION FROM HOUSE OF HALF THE LIBERAL MEMBERSHIP WITH OPPOSITION LEADER ROWE AND TWO OTHER MHA S RECEIVING THREE-DAY SUSPENSIONS. CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES IN THIS POTENTIAL "NEWFIE GATE" ARE MOUNTING DAILY AND GROWING IN COMPLEXITY - THE END IS NOT YET IN SIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 25, MHA STEPHEN A NEARY (L) TABLED IN THE HOUSE AN AFFIDAVIT FROM ANDREW DAVIDSON, SR., FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF SCRIVENER PROJECTS (NEWFOUNDLAND) LTD. AND FORMER PROJECT MANAGER FOR MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES COMPLEX, SUPPORTED BY A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM TERRANCE WHITE, FORMER EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DR THOMAS C FARRELL, ACCUSING FARRELL OF BRIBERY, PAYOFFS,
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COVER-UPS, AND INTIMIDATION. FARRELL S APARTMENT IN ST JOHN S WAS COINCIDENTALLY GUTTED BY FIRE ON APRIL 26. NEARY TABLED MORE DOCUMENTS FROM DAVIDSON ON APRIL 27. THESE DETAILED ADDITIONAL CHARGES AGAINST FARRELL INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED MONEY AND OTHER FAVORS FROM PROMOTER JOHN C DOYLE, CHAIRMAN OF CANADIAN JAVELIN LTD. WHO IS WANTED ON

FRAUD CHARGES IN BOTH CANADA AND THE U S AND WHO IS NOW REPORTEDLY LIVING IN PANAMA. LATER ON THE 27TH, JUSTICE MINISTER ALEX HICKMAN ORDERED A FULL RCMP INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHARGES AGAINST FARRELL. ON APRIL 28, HOUSE SPEAKER GERRY OTTENHEIMER GAVE THE RCMP PERMISSION TO SEARCH THE OFFICES OF FARRELL AND NEARY.

3. ON MAY 2, NEARY TABLED ANOTHER AFFIDAVIT FROM DAVIDSON, DATED APRIL 4, 1974, WHICH CONTAINS ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY AGAINST PREMIER FRANK D MOORES. AFFIDAVIT REFERS TO UNPUBLISHED ARTICLE WRITTEN IN OCT, 1973 BY DAVIDSON, ENTITLED "WATERGATE IN NEWFOUNDLAND, WHICH PURPORTEDLY DESCRIBES A WEB OF CORRUPTION IN NEWFOUNDLAND INVOLVING BOTH SENIOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND SEVERAL PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN. MOORES DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS AND COUNTER-CHARGED THAT NEARY AND DAVIDSON WERE BEING USED BY DOYLE IN AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT MOORES GOVT. OPPOSITION LEADER ROWE CALLED ON MOORES TO EITHER RESIGN OR IMMEDIATELY CALL AN ELECTION. ON MAY 9, PREMIER MOORES ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDS TO BRING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST DAVIDSON.

4. THE HOUSE OPENED SESSION AT 2:00 PM ON MAY 10 TO DEBATE CHARGES BY OPPOSITION LEADER WILLIAM ROWE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PREMIER MOORES HAD DELIBERATELY DECEIVED AND MISLED THE LEGISLATURE AND PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND CONCERNING COMMITMENTS MADE IN 1975 TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN NEW GOVT OFFICE BUILDING. ROWE CALLED FOR AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGATIONS. MOORES DENIED ALL THE CHARGES AND SAID THAT HE WOULD RESIGN IF NOT SUPPORTED BY THE HOUSE. THE ACRIMONIOUS SESSION LASTED THROUGH THE NIGHT. FINALLY THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE DOMINATED HOUSE DEFEATED ROWE S MOTION BY A VOTE OF 24 TO 15. MOORES THEN ROSE ON A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE TO DEMAND THAT ROWE WITHDRAW HIS ACCUSATIONS. ROWE REFUSED AND WAS "NAMED" BY SPEAKER OTTENHEIMER - A LEGISLATIVE FORMALITY THAT REQUIRED ROWE TO LEAVE THE CHAMBER. MINES MINISTER PECKFORD MOVED THAT ROWE BE SUSPENDED FROM THE HOUSE FOR THREE DAYS FOR FAILING TO WITHDRAW HIS REMARKS AGAINST THE PREMIER AFTER THE HOUSE VOTE. THE MOTION CARRIED. NINE MORE LIBERAL MHA S THEN ROSE TO REPEAT ROWE S CHARGES, WERE "NAMED" AND FORCED TO LEAVE THE CHAMBER. TWO OF THEM, INCLUDING NEARY, ALSO RECEIVED THREE DAY SUSPENSIONS. ONLY ROWE S DETERMINATION TO LEAVE AT LEAST A "CORPORAL S GUARD" OF LIBERALS IN THE

HOUSE KEPT THE REST OF HIS MHA S FROM RISING TO BE
"NAMED" . THE BITTER SESSION, HAVING LAST MORE THAN
18 HOURS, FINALLY ADJOURNED AT 8:15 AM, MAY 11.

5. COMMENT: NEWFOUNDLAND HAS A LONG HISTORY OF
POLITICAL SKULDUGGERY WITH EACH SIDE REPORTEDLY
"HAVING THE GOODS" ON THE OTHER. THE LATEST EXPLOSION
OF CHARGES MAY FINALLY BLOW THE LID OFF, BUT THAT S
NOT CERTAIN- THERE IS ALSO AN OLD PROVINCIAL
TRADITION OF PLUGGING UP SCANDALS. WE DON T YET KNOW
WHAT TRUTH, IF ANY, EXISTS IN THE CHARGES MADE
AGAINST PREMIER MOORES AND HIS GOVERNMENT BUT WE
WOULD NOT BS SURPRISED IF THERE IS FIRE UNDER ALL
THE CURRENT SMOKE. END COMMENT.
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6. DRAFTER: R S AYLING. AYLING

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